

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-17, and 19-45 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, and 17 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 18, and 46-52 have been canceled without prejudice to prosecution in a continuation application. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2, 10-15, 17, 19, 46-49 and 51-52, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gulati (U.S. patent 6,671,625).

Claims 16 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gulati (U.S. patent 6,671,625) in view of Eisfeld et al (U.S. patent 6,804,385).

Claims 20-45 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for his consideration and allowance of claims 20-45.

Claim 3-9 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 and claim 3. Therefore, amended claim 1 should be patentable.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 17. Therefore, amended claim 17 should be allowable.

A set of formal drawings is attached herewith with a Letter to Official Draftsperson. The formal drawings will replace the informal drawings filed with the application.

Appl. No. 10/829,407
Amdt. sent December 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 20, 2006

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


Rodney C. LeRoy
Reg. No. 53,205

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
RCL:klm
60902164 v1